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AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

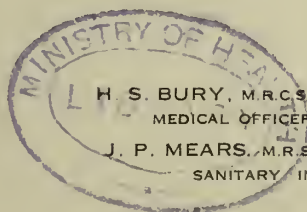
Medical Officer of Health

and the

Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor

for the

YEAR 1952



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE AMPHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the annual report upon the health, vital statistics and sanitary conditions of the Ampthill Urban District for the year 1952.

The department received a severe blow on the sudden death of Mr. Hawtin during May. Mr. J. P. Mears was appointed Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Housing Manager in October.

Mr. Pleydell resigned in September and I was appointed as his successor in November.

Inspection of the vital statistics shows that the birth rate is lower than last year, while the death rate compares favourably with the corresponding rate for England and Wales. There were no maternal deaths during the year.

Only a small number of notifiable diseases were notified during the year.

Throughout the year water supply to the District was adequate both in quantity and quality.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the officials of the District Council and the staff for their help and co-operation.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

H. S. BURY,

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1953.

AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For 1952

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY :—

Medical Officer of Health—M. J. PLEYDELL, M.C., M.D., D.P.H.
(resigned Sept. 1952).

H. S. BURY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(appointed Nov. 1952).

Sanitary Inspector—THOS. A. HAWTIN, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (died May).
J. P. MEARS, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (appointed Oct.).

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,904
Population Census 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,873
Population in 1952 (estimated Mid Year)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,000
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1952	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	988
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£16,789
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£65/11/6

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Ampthill is in the southern half of the County and is approximately midway between Bedford and Luton. The town is placed on high ground, but pleasantly screened by well wooded countryside on two of its elevations; the district is situated in a part of the County noted for its fine woodlands and scenery and Ampthill itself is well known for its buildings of architectural interest.

Ampthill Station is on the main line from St. Pancras and the district is well served by the United Counties Omnibus Service.

The district is mainly residential, with a few light industries including a laundry, agricultural engineering, fodder mill, and a firm of refrigeration engineers.

Many of the inhabitants travel daily to Luton and Bedford for their employment, particularly in the factories there, but others are employed at Messrs. Bovril Ltd. and Ferguson's factories which are just outside the Urban district. The remainder are engaged on farming, market gardening and other employment consistent with a small town of this size.

Amphill Park provides facilities for cricket, football and fishing, a children's recreation ground has now been established there. Other sporting and social activities are provided by the Bowls Club, Choral and Dramatic Societies, Amphill Town Band; and mainly for the younger people Scouts and Youth Clubs.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

					Total	Male	Female
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	...	...	40	19	21
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	4	2	2
Total					44	21	23

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the home population is 14.7.

Birth Rate of England and Wales is 15.3 per 1,000 of home population.

					Total	Male	Female
Still Births—Legitimate	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total					1	1	—

Still birth rate 40 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

Still birthrate for England and Wales is 22.6 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

DEATHS.

						Total	Male	Female
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	42	26	16

giving a death rate of 14.0 per 1,000 of the home population.

the death rate for England and Wales is 11.3 per 1,000 home population.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no maternal deaths during the year. The maternal mortality rate for England and Wales was 0.72 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

No deaths occurred amongst infants under one year of age (legitimate). The infantile mortality rate for England and Wales was 27.6 per 1,000 live births.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

								M	F
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	2
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
26.	Ulcer, stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
37.	All causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	16

General Provision of Health Services in the Area

1. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

A new Public Health Laboratory has been set up in the grounds of the Bedford General Hospital, North Wing. The service provided is under the direction of the Medical Research Council acting for the Ministry of Health and is free of charge to the Local Authority.

One of the main functions of this Service is to co-operate with General Practitioners and Medical Officers of Health in the diagnosis, prevention, and control of infectious diseases. For these purposes the laboratory will undertake the examination of material, e.g., throat swabs, sputa, faeces, urine and blood from any patient suspected to be suffering from a communicable infection, or of being a carrier. All General Practitioners in the district have been acquainted of these facilities.

2. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council has satisfactorily met the demands that are occurring. It covers the full twenty-four hours, and is free of charge.

In addition to moving emergency cases, ambulance and sitting-case car transport is available for carrying patients unable to travel by other means to and from Hospital and Clinics, at which attendance is necessary for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Except in the case of an emergency, the request for an ambulance must be made by a Medical Practitioner or other Authorised Person. This should be to the nearest depot.

Out-patients of Hospitals using public transport are re-imbursed their travelling expenses by the Hospital Authorities.

The Service also covers the removal to isolation hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

Depots are situated as follows :—

AMPTHILL, 14 Dunstable Street	...	...	Telephone : Ampthill 2187.
BEDFORD, Dent's Road	...	...	Telephone : Bedford 5335.
BIGGLESWADE, Crab Lane	...	...	Telephone : Biggleswade 2295.
DUNSTABLE, High Street North	...	...	Telephone : Dunstable 761.
LUTON, 42 Church Street	...	...	Telephone : Luton 4600.
LINSLADE, Bucks. County Council. 10 New Road, Linslade			Telephone : Leighton Buzzard 3332.
RUSHDEN, Rushden & District Motor Ambulance Association, Mr. C. C. Woods, 3 Purvis Road	...		Telephone : Rushden 403.

3. DOMICILARY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

Under the National Health Service Act 1946, the County Council became responsible for the provision of this Service.

Direct administration is by the Northern Divisional Health Committee.

The nurse is qualified both in nursing and midwifery, acting as nurse midwife, and has a motor car.

No charge is made to patients.

The nurse employed is :—Nurse Evans, S.R.N., S.C.M.

4. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

These are undertaken by the County Council.

Infant Welfare Clinics :—

1 Dunstable Street, Ampthill. Fridays, 2 p.m.

Venereal Disease Clinic :—

	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>
Bedford County Hospital (Ampthill Road Entrance)	Monday to Friday (inclusive) 4—8 p.m.	Monday, Tuesday, 6.0 p.m. Wednesday, 5.0—7 p.m. Thursday, 6.0 p.m. Friday, 3.0—5 p.m.

Medical Officer in attendance :

Monday, 5—6.30 p.m., Wednesdays, 5—7.30 p.m., Fridays, 2.30—5.30 p.m.

Chest Clinic.

The Chest Clinic is situated in Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Bedford. The Physician in Charge is of consultant status and is in daily attendance. Patients are seen by appointment only, except in the case of emergency.

For consultation in special cases, at the discretion of the Physician in Charge, Dr. Lee Lander, Consultant Physician, Brompton Hospital, visits the area for one session each fortnight.

The hours of the Clinic are as follows :—

Monday, 2 p.m.—3.30 p.m. Pneumothorax refills.

Monday, 6 p.m.—7 p.m. Ditto (workers).

Tuesday morning and afternoon. Women and children.

Wednesday morning. Contacts (both sexes).

Wednesday afternoon. Miniature film session for general practitioners

Thursday morning and afternoon. Men.

Friday, 9 a.m.—11 a.m. Pneumothorax refills.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Public Health Act 1890. Parts i, ii, iii.
 Public Health Act, 1925, Part i.
 Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, Part i.
 Private Street Works Act, 1892.

BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Building Byelaws.
 New Streets.
 Nuisances Contrary to Public Decency.
 Telegraph &c. Wires.
 Water Regulations and Charges.

SCHOOLS

The following are situated in the district :—

1. AMPTHILL VOLUNTARY PRIMARY, Church of England.

Average number on roll (Xmas Term)	...	133
„ „ of attendances „	...	122

The sanitary conveniences are :—for the boys, 2; for girls, 2; for infants, 2
 They are on the water carriage system and connected with the public sewer.

2. METHODIST PRIMARY. This is a Methodist Day School.

Average number on roll (Xmas Term)	...	182
„ „ of attendances „	...	165

Sanitary conveniences :—for boys, 3; for girls and infants, 5. They are on
 the water carriage system and connected to the public sewer.

CLOSURES.—It was unnecessary to close either of the schools through infectious diseases.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER SUPPLY.

The Ampthill Urban District Council's Waterworks situated at Clophill, has three boreholes sunk into the greensand which supply the whole of the Urban District, together with bulk supplies to the Ampthill Rural District Council.

The water is treated for hardness with Hydrated Buxton Lime, flows through sedimentation tanks, is treated with Calgon and chlorine, then filtered before passing into the pumping and distribution mains.

Daily tests are carried out for hardness and residual chlorine, and at monthly intervals bacteriological examinations are made of samples taken from various points in the area of supply. In addition periodical chemical analyses are made of the raw and treated water, and it is satisfactory to note that both the bacteriological and the chemical examinations have revealed a high standard of purity.

The water as passed into supply is slightly hard, averaging 14.2 parts per 100,000. It has no plumbo-solvent action.

Number of houses supplied from public mains in Ampthill ... 988

Population in Ampthill supplied from public water mains approx. 2,780

(a) Direct to houses ... 944 houses

(b) By means of private standpipes ... 44 houses

Bulk supplies of water are taken by the Ampthill Rural District for consumers in Clophill, Maulden and Stewartby.

284 yards of 3 inch main was laid to serve the Council's houses, Queens Road and new premises in The Avenue.

TYPICAL RESULT OF CHEMICAL EXAMINATION OF SAMPLE OF TREATED WATER.

Parts per million.

Nitrogen, Ammoniacal	0.04
„ Albuminoid	0.04
„ Nitrous	None
„ Nitric	0.86
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins.	0.04
„ „ „ 4 hours	0.08
Hardness, temporary	80.00
„ permanent	95.00
Iron	None

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Sewage Disposal Works are sited at Abbey Lane, and consists of the following :—detritus and sedimentation tanks, rotary percolating, filters, humus tanks, storm water overflows and sludge lagoons. The treated effluent discharges into Running Waters Brook. During the year a full report was prepared by the Council's consultants who stated that the plant was grossly insufficient for present requirements and recommended that extensions be carried out as soon as possible at an approximate cost of £13,000. Samples of Sewage effluent were taken regularly and in each case these were found to be unsatisfactory.

3. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No complaints of pollution were given, but samples of sewage effluent and water from Running Waters Brook were taken.

4. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The majority of the premises in the town have water carriage systems, but thirty-five houses with no sewer available are drained to cesspools. Ten cottages (isolated cottages and agricultural dwellings) have only pail closets.

5. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection and disposal of house refuse has been satisfactorily carried out by a private contractor who has a properly covered refuse collecting vehicle. A weekly collection is in operation and the refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at a site near the Bedford Road Hill.

6. SALVAGE.

During the year 17 tons 17 cwt. 3 qr. of waste paper was collected and sold, which realised the sum of £149 14s. 2d. Owing to the great decrease in the price obtained for waste paper; collections were discontinued from residential properties, but the business premises in the centre of the town have been cleared weekly.

7. SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA.

The following is a summary of the Sanitary and other defects during the year :—

Premises with defective and insanitary closets	...	...	...	4
" " insufficient sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	—
" " insanitary and defective drains	...	...	...	9
" " insanitary and defective cesspools	...	...	...	3
" " defective windows, insufficient light and ventilation	...	...	...	2
" " defective floors	...	...	...	2
Dirty premises	...	...	...	4
Dangerous structure	...	...	...	2
Accumulations of offensive matter	...	...	...	1
Unsound meat and other foods	...	...	...	12
Rooms disinfected after infectious disease	...	...	...	5
Rooms disinfected for bed bugs, etc.	...	...	...	—
Nuisance from rats and mice	...	...	...	26
Other dilapidations	...	...	...	3
Number of statutory notices served	...	...	...	—
Number of informal notices served	...	...	...	62
" " defective premises	...	...	...	22

8. SHOPS AND OFFICES.

These establishments were inspected at intervals and were all found to be generally satisfactory, no formal action being necessary.

9. CAMPING SITES.

No sites existed at the beginning of the year, and no applications were received for licences to erect moveable dwellings of any kind.

10. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Complaints of smoke nuisance from a factory outside the Urban District was referred to the Rural District Council who took steps to have the nuisance abated.

11. DISINFESTATION.

No treatment was necessary.

HOUSING.

Eight Council Houses were completed during the year, making the total number of post-war dwellings 106, consisting of 82 traditional house, 12 traditional type flats and six prefabricated bungalows. Six private houses were completed and occupied.

The following plans were approved under Building byelaws :

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 3 Houses. | 6 alterations to business premises. |
| 2 Bungalows. | 11 alterations to domestic premises. |
| 1 conversion of stables to bungalow. | |
| 1 conversion of 2 cottages to one dwelling. | |
| 1 conversion of stores to service flat. | |
| 1 wooden building to be used as temporary dormitory accommodation for European brickworkers. | |

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING.

Twenty-two applications under the Town and Country Planning Acts were received, twenty were approved and two refused.

RODENT CONTROL.

The destruction of rats and mice was carried out by a trained operator who has been able to reduce the number of rodents in the district and taken such steps to keep them down to a minimum. The refuse tip and sewage disposal works have been kept under close control, private dwellings and business premises have been treated as and when required, and the operator has made surveys of ditches, streams and the district generally, carrying out any necessary treatment.

The Sewerage system was tested and treated where necessary in accordance with Ministry instructions.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY.

The premises of two retailers within the district were visited regularly and found to be satisfactory. Two dairies situated outside the district retail designated milk in the district.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

- 132 lbs. Beef.
- 31 lbs. Pork.
- 51 lbs. Tinned Meats.
- 74 lbs. Mixed Groceries.
- 10 lbs. Cheese.

BUTCHERS' SHOPS.

The five butchers' shops have been inspected and found to be most satisfactory.

BAKEHOUSES.

These two premises have been visited and found to be generally satisfactory. A minor rat and mice infestation was found at one which was satisfactorily cleared and steps taken to proof the building.

ICE CREAM REGISTRATIONS.

No fresh applications were received during the year.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Cases of Infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Spittlesea Isolation Hospital.

The present policy of the North Western Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, which is now the authority for the admission to Hospital of patients suffering from infectious disease, is that Scarlet Fever and Measles should be admitted only where it is considered advisable due to the seriousness of the illness, or to an unsatisfactory home environment.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.—3 cases were notified compared with 5 in the previous year.

Measles.—There were 6 cases notified as compared with 8 in the previous year.

Poliomyelitis.—2 cases were notified.

Whooping Cough.—2 cases were notified.

Erysipelas.—There was no case.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES
(Other than Tuberculosis).

[illegible]

ARTIFICIAL IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

With the coming into force of the National Health Service Act 1946 on 5th July, 1948, the County Council assumed responsibility for the functioning of a scheme under which facilities are available for children of all ages to obtain this important preventive treatment free of charge, either from the family doctor at his surgery, or from a medical officer at any of the Welfare Centres or schools within the County.

The following figures are presented through information supplied by Dr. G. K. Bowes, the Northern Divisional Medical Officer.

Number of children at 31st December, 1952, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1935):—

NUMBER IMMUNISED									ESTIMATED MID-YEAR CHILD POPULATION, 1952.		
AGE AT	UNDER							TOTAL	UNDER	TOTAL	
31.12.52	1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	UNDER	5	5-14	UNDER
								15			15
	4	36	18	28	35	145	219	485	225	327	552

These figures indicate that 53.8% of the child population under 5 years of age has been immunised against diphtheria as compared with 46.3% at the end of 1951. As in the previous year, 100% of the child population of 5-14 years has been immunised against diphtheria. Thus 87.9% of the children under 15 years of age have been protected against diphtheria by immunisation.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Period.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year
1 year to 5 years
5 years to 10 years
10 " 15 "
15 " 20 "
20 " 25 "	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 " 35 "	1	...	...	...	...
35 " 45 "	1	...	...	...
45 " 55 "
55 " 65 "
65 " and over	1	...	...
Total	1	...	1	1	1	...	...

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925,
AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 172.

No action was required to be taken under these Acts.

CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS.

Scabies.

By arrangement with the Borough of Bedford, infected persons are treated at the Borough Treatment Centre, Commercial Road, Bedford. The cost is 10/- per treatment.

Where possible, arrangements are made for the other members of the household to attend for treatment as contacts at the same time as the infected person or persons.

During the year under review no treatments were given.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.—No action was required under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—**INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	9	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	10	16	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority †(excluding out-workers' premises)	2	4	—	—
TOTAL ...	16	29	—	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...					
Overcrowding (S.2) ...					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1			
(c) Not separate for sexes ...					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1			
TOTAL ...	2	2	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of outworkers in August listrequired by Sect. 110(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel— Making, etc. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

† i.e., Electrical Stations (Section 103 (1)), Institutions (Section 104), and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

